



4 October 2018

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI 03038

Thank you for your request concerning the weekly cost per person for being a patient in Seward Lodge.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

1. Could you please make public how much the weekly cost per person is for being a patient in: Seward Lodge, Lilbourne Drive, Hertford, Hertfordshire.

The Trust considers the breakdown of weekly bed costs to be commercially sensitive under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Information is exempt if disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority holding the information. This is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to the public interest test. We have considered the reasons for and against disclosure below:

Reason in favour of disclosure

There is considerable interest in ensuring the Trust is transparent about its spending of public money at a time when public finances are under considerable scrutiny.

Reason against disclosure

We are currently in the process of re-negotiating our contract for next April; whereby we purchase beds from the private sector.

The Trust is obliged to protect its position as a purchaser in a competitive commercial environment and the breakdown of the weekly cost to a patient in Seward Lodge could prejudice our bargaining position.

We reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this breakdown under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

Sue Smith
Information Rights Officer

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

